



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

3500 Industrial Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Action Items and Meeting Summary

Background

Action Items and Meeting Summary from Conservancy Board meeting on January 19, 2011.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Action Items and Meeting Summary

Contact

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DELTA CONSERVANCY

Action Items and Meeting Summary
for the January 19, 2011, Board Meeting
at
3500 Industrial Blvd., West Sacramento, CA

ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff will keep board informed on status of the Executive Officer exemption request.
 2. Staff will make an exemption request for the Environmental Scientist position.
 3. Staff will enter into a contract for the new headquarters location.
 4. Staff will sign interagency agreement with the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC).
 5. In Future Funding Source report, staff will extend "Applications Due" to 120 days.
 6. Staff will participate in Fish Restoration Program Agreement meetings.
 7. Staff will send Spring Finance Letter to Resources Agency by February 1 and to Department of Finance by mid-February.
 8. Staff will post an alternate new version of the Interim Strategic Plan (ISP) that includes line numbers for public comments. This will be called the Comment Version.
 9. Staff will send out a list serve and a News Release soliciting public comments about the ISP.
 10. The Strategic Plan Subcommittee will meet after February 1, review public input and present a revised ISP for the February board meeting.
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MEETING SUMMARY

1. Morning Session Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m., January 19, 2011, by Chair Mary Piepho.

2. Flag Salute

California Resources Agency Secretary John Laird led the flag salute.

3. Welcome and Introduction

Chair Mary Piepho asked Board members and audience members to introduce themselves.

John Laird, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency and new board member, introduced himself and shared his thoughts regarding his commitment to the Conservancy.

Counsel Matt Campbell announced he has accepted a new position in the Attorney General's Office and is transferring his board duties to Deputy Attorney General Michael Crow. Michael has 30 years experience in the Attorney General's Office as well as experience with the San Joaquin River Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

4. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following Board members were present for the closed session meeting: Chuck Bonham, Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Mary Piepho, Jim Provenza, Dan Taylor, Ken Vogel, Eddie Woodruff, Jimmie Yee, and Darla Guenzler. Note: John Laird left immediately after his introduction.

5. Meeting Closed

Chair Mary Piepho closed the meeting at 9:24 a.m. for the Executive Officer hiring process.

6. Afternoon Session Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair Mary Piepho.

7. General Public Comments

There were no general public comments.

8. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following Board members were present for the meeting: Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Mary Piepho, Jim Provenza, Todd Ferrara, Dan Taylor, Ken Vogel, Jimmie Yee, and Darla Guenzler. The following liaison advisors were present: Mark Wilson, Robin Kulakow, Tina Andolina, and Sue Fry.

9. Consent Calendar Items

The Board approved the consent calendar items by unanimous vote.

10. Interim Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer – Staff has not yet received an update on the status of the exemption request from the Governor's Office. Staff met with Resources Secretary John Laird and he is very supportive of filling this position. It was announced today that there is a statewide hiring freeze. Staff will notify Board if or when an exemption is received.

Environmental Scientist – Staff has interviewed ten candidates; currently checking references on two candidates and will make a tentative offer. Karen Finn pointed out that with today's new hiring freeze, the Environmental Scientist position will need an exemption request. Staff noted we may go to Plan B, hiring outside consultants to get the work done. It was also noted there are union and state policy issues to consider if consultants are hired.

Volunteers – Staff introduced our first volunteer, Betsy Taloff. She has a background in management and finance and has worked in the legal and nonprofit industries. She served as Director of Administration for the Wintun Nation where she coordinated design and implementation of their master community plan. Betsy is building a clearinghouse of nonprofits and community agencies serving the Delta.

Conservancy Correspondence – Staff provided the Board with two letters sent from the Conservancy to Phil Isenberg, Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), and Governor-Elect Brown, as well as one letter received from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

Headquarters Search – Staff announced an office has been identified and highlighted specifications of the approximately 2800 square foot space. Clearance will be needed for the Interim Executive Officer to sign the contract, expected to be a 4 years hard/4 years soft contract. IT and moving contracts are also being developed. DSC has office furniture and 7 computers for us. We're purchasing 2 workstations for volunteers and one laptop replacement.

Conservancy Contracts – Staff signed the contract with Department of Justice for Legal Services. Staff met with DSC's Executive Officer Grindstaff to work out details

for an Interagency Agreement. DSC have agreed to pay \$150,000 for strategic plan development. A motion was moved and seconded for the Interim Executive Officer to enter into an Interagency Agreement with DSC for the \$150,000. The Ayes carried unanimously. Staff will sign and move contract forward.

Future Funding Sources – Staff revamped report and will list application due dates and new opportunities in future reports. Board suggested extending the "Applications Due" list to 120 days, changed from 90 days, to allow enough time for the grant writing process.

Delta Planning Efforts – The purpose of this matrix is to list meetings in which staff and board members participated. Staff noted the January 4 meeting in which Chair Piepho and Interim Executive Officer Cindy Messer met with Chairs, Executive Directors, and representatives of DSC, Delta Protection Commission and the Delta County Coalition to discuss mechanisms for coordination between these entities for Delta Plan development. These will be regular monthly meetings. Staff also noted the January 4-5 meeting with Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to discuss implementation of mitigation projects for the Fish Restoration Program Agreement and Conservancy's potential role. The Conservancy was invited by DWR and DFG to participate in meetings. They have an 8,000 acre target they must meet and may ask the Conservancy to be the final holder of some restored projects. The implementation plan is due in approximately nine months. Also, staff provided a hand-out of the DSC Scoping Meetings.

11. Conservancy Budget Report

DSC Support – DSC has agreed to support the Conservancy with IT, networking and administration services through June 2012, an approximately \$80,000 value. This is not permanent funding, and not in the baseline budget.

Spring Finance Letter – Staff has a copy of the letter if members want to look at it. It includes a request for \$300,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund. For FY 2011-12, \$200,000 is targeted for the final strategic plan, \$65,000 is for renting office space and \$35,000 is for student services. The letter is due to the Resources Agency February 1 and to Finance mid-February. A motion was moved and seconded to approve the Spring Finance Letter including the \$300,000 request. The Ayes carried with one abstention. (Ayes - Mary Piepho, Mike Eaton, Jim Provenza, Todd Ferrara, Dan Taylor, Ken Vogel, Jimmie Yee, and Darla Guenzler; 0 Nays, 1 Abstention – Karen Finn) Also, staff provided a hand-out: 2011-2012 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Funding Sources, prepared by Sacramento County.

12. Strategic Plan Process

Strategic Plan Subcommittee Chair Mike Eaton noted team has met in three public meetings, (two in December 2010, one in January 2011) to provide a final version of the interim strategic plan for Board review. He noted staff did a superb job in initiating and managing the process.

Staff Nancy Ullrey provided a presentation on the interim plan and started by thanking Dave Feliz (Yolo Basin Foundation), Jyo Muroyama, Michael Pieretti, and DWR for graciously allowing us to use photos for the publication. The strategic plan is an evolving document; the newest version, complete with photos, was distributed at the meeting. Nancy also distributed a hand-out including the Vision and Mission statements, noting they are comprehensive, to match our mandated charges. The hand-out also included a list of four overarching goals that include the twelve legislative mandates as the objectives of those goals.

Staff received comments from State & Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA), see attachment. Staff brought forth four comments for board consideration.

- 1) Recommended changing “the primary state agency”, throughout the draft document, back to “a primary state agency”, contending it is inappropriate and inconsistent with the Conservancy’s authorizing legislation. Staff said we were encouraged by Senator Wolk to use “the”. Matt Campbell said there is no legal issue with using “the”.
- 2) Recommended keeping the descriptor “parts of” the Yolo Bypass, as the entire Yolo Bypass is not within the Delta. Board noted is it sees the Yolo Bypass as a whole piece, not cut in half; members concluded it is okay to be broad.
- 3) Recommended demographic and economic figures used be consistent with DPC’s draft Economic Sustainability Plan. Staff will cite source used, that being the Delta Status and Trends Report, May, 2007. The DPC’s Economic Sustainability Plan report is not yet completed.
- 4) Recommended re-writing page 30, paragraph 1, line 8 to: “The Conservancy will help to shape the ecosystem restoration section...” rather than asserting, “The Conservancy will take a lead role in shaping the ecosystem restoration section of the Delta Plan.” Board agreed to use the original language, stating that the Conservancy needs to assert its role.

It was moved and seconded to accept the status quo on the four SFCWA’s recommendations. The motion was rescinded.

It was moved and seconded to accept the status quo on the first recommendation. The Ayes carried with one opposition. (Ayes - Mary Piepho, Mike Eaton, Jim Provenza,

Todd Ferrara, Dan Taylor, Ken Vogel, Jimmie Yee, and Darla Guenzler; 0 Nays, 1 Opposed – Karen Finn)

It was moved and seconded to accept the status quo on SFCWA's recommendations 2-4. The Ayes carried unanimously.

The Board received public comments from Greg Zlotnick, representing SFWCA. He encouraged the Conservancy to use the legislatively-directed phrase "a primary state agency". He pointed out that water does not come from the Delta, but comes from the Sierra, and only goes 'through' the Delta.

The Board received public comments from Robert Pyke, a consulting engineer. He commented that the ISP is an excellent document, well written and well thought out. He said he was puzzled by the clause, "Lead the efforts in shaping the ecosystem section of the Delta Plan..." He also commented that the absence of technical content in the ISP is a problem; he expects the Conservancy should start laying out ecosystem restoration goals and lead the way to a long term restoration system.

The Board thanked both public members for their comments.

It was moved and seconded to approve in concept the ISP and to direct the subcommittee to re-post a numbered version to elicit public comments through the close of February 1 and meet after February 1 to consider input and produce a final version. The Ayes carried unanimously.

13. Potential Agenda Items for the February 16, 2011 Agenda

Board requested to review the final draft ISP from Strategic Plan Subcommittee and be introduced to the new Executive Officer

14. Public Comments

There were no further public comments.

15. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled February 23, 2011.

Respectfully submitted on January 31, 2011

Susan Roberts

Board Liaison, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy